



Date: March 20, 2023

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Bertha T. Johnson, Deputy City Manager
From: Robert D. Morales, Senior Grants Manager
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project - Community-Rooted Approaches to Public Health

Executive Summary

On November 3, 2021, Communities in Partnership (CIP) submitted proposal “Community-Rooted™ Approaches to Public Health” requesting \$2,850,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support current and additional predominantly minority, low-wealth families in Durham who were and/or continue to be financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the community food co-op, affordable housing program, and range of community health and educational programs housed in the Impact Team Building. On May 18, 2022, City Council approved \$1,000,000 funding for this entity. Staff has reviewed the revised proposal and recommends funding.

Motion

To authorize the City Manager to execute an ARPA subrecipient grant agreement with Communities in Partnership in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to enhance ongoing programmatic support and resources.

Background

The original proposal from Communities in Partnership (CIP) requested \$2,850,000 from ARPA funds under core category of Negative Economic Impacts. CIP is a Black women led, Black women founded, community accountable organization that addresses the social determinants of health through interconnected programs addressing food sovereignty, entrepreneurship, workforce development, affordable housing, and leadership development. As a community-rooted organization, CIP has been proactive in supporting both immediate community needs while building community capacity on intersectional issues with a race, class, and gender analysis. From that history of community relationship, CIP quickly scaled efforts to address the rapid increase in demand as a result of COVID. In 2020, CIP supported 950+ households in Durham with its food co-op, multi-family housing, and community programming. These connected investments address food security, housing security, and economic development in Old East Durham and beyond. CIP will use ARPA funds to support and upscale components of its ongoing programs.

CIP is part of the coalition of Black-led, Durham-based organizations known as “Back in the Black” collaborating on contract administration, reporting, and project implementation. Several organizations within the coalition collaborate on an equity-based administration and reporting approach to serve those goals. CIP has secured an evaluator organization, Anderson Insights Evaluation and Consulting LLC to employ developmentally and culturally appropriate evaluation frameworks utilizing participatory and strengths-based research methods. Mantra Consulting, a full-service CPA firm with extensive nonprofit accounting experience, will direct grants

management and reporting. CIP has prior experience managing and reporting on large funding revenues from federal, state, and private philanthropic sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Agriculture, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Kresge, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Issues and Analysis

CIP was founded and continues to be led by majority Black women living in East Durham, some of whom have direct experience with economic marginalization and housing insecurity. Staff and Board members either are, or reflect, the people served. Operations and programming are informed by the perspectives of those most impacted by the decision-making. The ideas for sustaining and scaling CIP's operations are a direct result of conversations with community members most impacted by COVID-related disparities. Project goals and objectives will be implemented by those same people.

CIP focuses on addressing the five social determinants of health as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services. It aims to stabilize communities by addressing interconnected concerns following a community-centered approach with a focus on ownership and leadership. The Durham Compass data highlights the need for programs as residents of Old East Durham are faced with income inequality and gentrification. CIP's accountability to marginalized communities and focus on stabilizing communities for long-term change aligns with the Racial Equity Task Force and Policy Link's priorities for advancing racial equity in Durham.

Alternatives

The City Council can choose not to accept the staff recommendation.

Financial Impact

\$1,000,000 is available for this purpose from the funding source of the ARPA federal funds. The City of Durham received \$51,881,733 in two distributions; the first distribution was received on June 1, 2021, in the amount of \$25,940,866.50; the remaining amount was received May 2022. The City will have until December 2024 to obligate the funds. Recipients have until December 2026 to spend the funds.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this agenda item, a review by the Finance Department was not required.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information would not be applicable.

Attachments

Communities in Partnership Subrecipient Grant Agreement